DC COMICS™
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HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE™
KEITH GIFFEN
POP MHAN
FORGING A NEW DESTINY!
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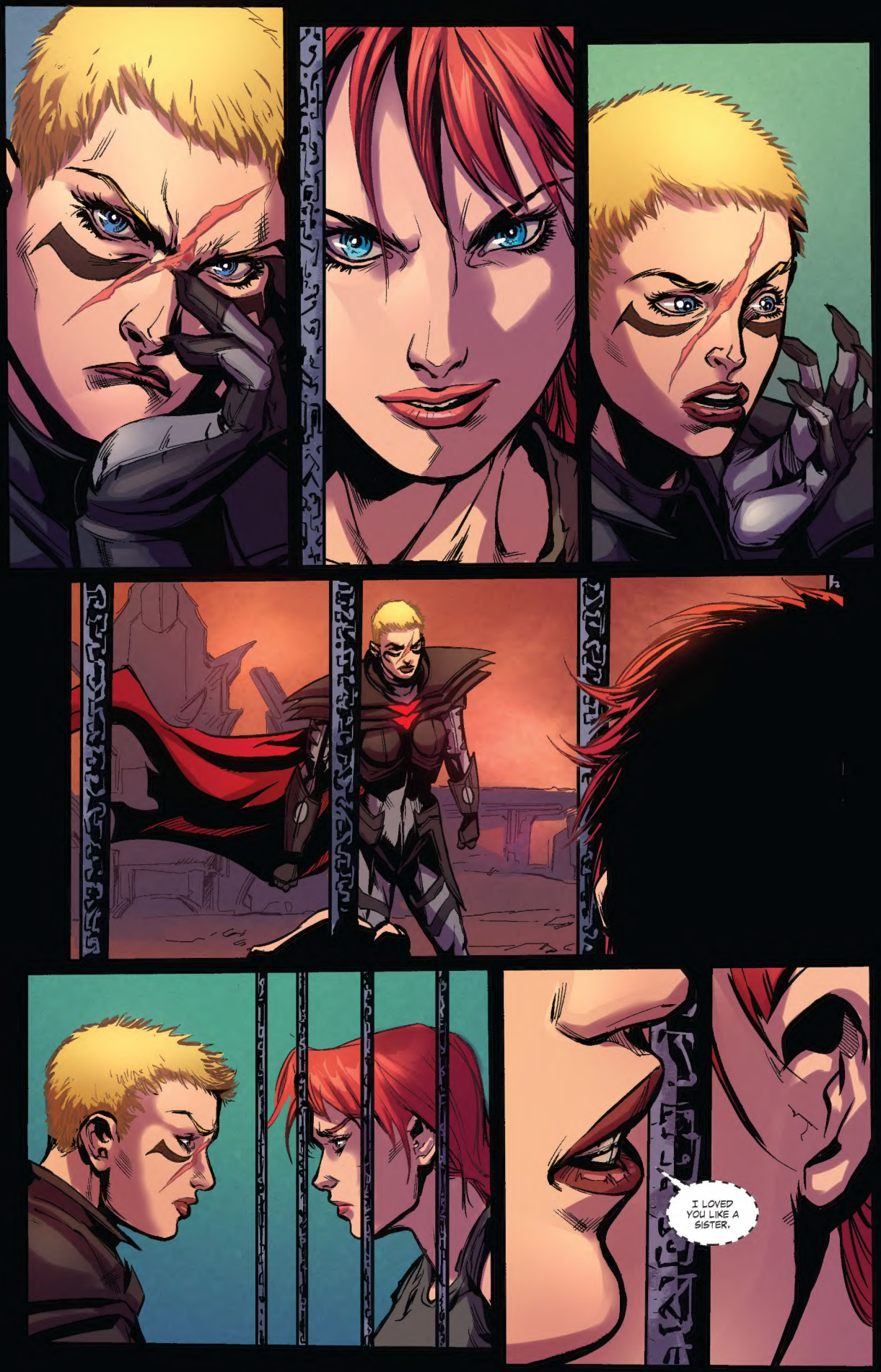

I LOVED YOU LIKE A SISTER.

CASTLE GRAYSKULL.
FIRES OF ETERNITY
story - KEITH GIFFEN
pencils - POP MHAN and AXEL GIMENEZ
inks - POP MHAN and CORAL MARTINEZ
colors - KATHRYN LAYNO
letters - SAIDA TEMOFONTE
cover - ED BENES and RANDY MAYOR
edits - MICHAEL McCALISTER

THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO GET YOUR HEAD BLOWN OFF.
YOU'D THINK SO, WOULDN'T YOU? SO FAR NO ONE'S SO MUCH AS FIRED A WARNING SHOT. I THINK THEY WANT US TO KNOW HOW BRUTALLY OUTNUMBERED WE ARE.
HARD TO MISS.
TELL ME, THEIR SIEGE RING MUST BE HALF A KILOMETER WIDE.
BARRING A MIRACLE, WE'RE NOT WALKING OUT OF THIS ALIVE.
I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU KEPT THAT TO YOURSELF.
ANY WORD ON TEELA?
THEY HAVEN'T DISPLAYED HER BODY, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I--
I KNOW. I KNOW. MY APOLOGY. IT'S JUST THAT I...I'M...
WHY DO YOU CARE? SHE'S ALWAYS GIVEN YOU THE ROUGH EDGE OF HER TONGUE.
YOU MEAN THERE'S A SMOOTH EDGE?
GOOD POINT.
SHE STOOD BY ME WHEN WE WERE KIDS.
MY...ABILITY. IT DOESN'T INSPIRE MUCH CONFIDENCE... NOR RESPECT.
I WAS AN EASY TARGET FOR KIDS LOOKING TO SCORE POINTS. TEELA SOON PUT AN END TO THAT.
TEELA? MY TEELA? ABOUT YO HIGH, RED HAIR...?
SHE DECLARED ME HER BOYFRIEND. TOLD THEM THAT IF THEY DIDN'T LAY OFF OF ME THEY'D ANSWER TO HER.
WE WERE ALL OF SIX YEARS OLD.
EVER SINCE THEN, SHE'S BEEN THE ONLY ONE WHO RAZES ON ME.
IT'S A SMALL ENOUGH PRICE TO PAY.
PAY? FOR WHAT? YOU'RE A GROWN MAN NOW AND--
FOR HER FRIENDSHIP, SHE DOESN'T MEAN A WORD OF IT, YOU KNOW.
I GUESS I DO... NOW.
THAT'S HOW I KNOW SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

BECAUSE SHE'S YOUR FRIEND?
CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER REASON?
BECAUSE SHE'S MY DAUGHTER.
YOU WIN.
BEST HUNT SOME COVER, SIR. THEY'RE LOBBING IN ANOTHER BARRAGE.
YOU GET THE FEELING THEY'RE AMUSING THEMSELVES UNTIL THE ATTACK ORDER COMES DOWN?
I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
WHUM WHUM
WHUM

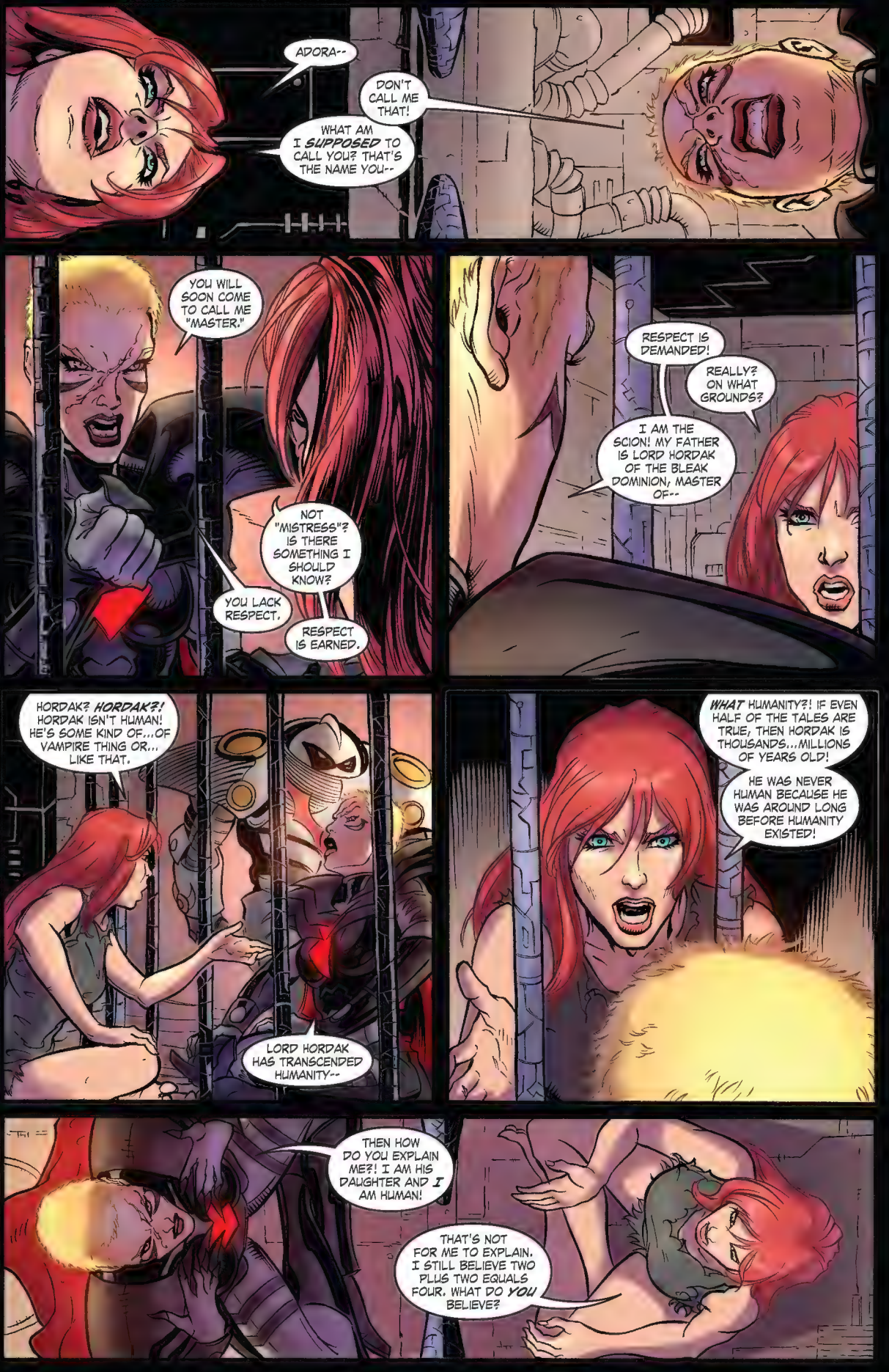
KHPUM PUM PUM
GRAYSKULL CAN'T TAKE TOO MUCH MORE.
GRAYSKULL WILL SERVE AS IT ALWAYS HAS.
THAT DIDN'T SOUND AS ENCOURAGING AS YOU MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT.
I AM NOT HERE TO ENCOURAGE YOU. I AM HERE TO SEE YOU PREPARED FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD.
HOURS CREEPING THROUGH THIS TUNNEL AND YOU HAVEN'T GIVEN ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER YET.
HORDAK IS THE FOE. YOUR SISTER IS BUT AN INSTRUMENT.
A MYTH COME TO LIFE. HOW DO I DEFEAT...
MY WHAT?
THE TAKEN. HORDAK'S PRIZE.
MY DARK SECRET.
I DON'T HAVE A SISTER! I HAVE NO SIBLING--
I CAN SAY NO MORE.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LINE OF--
CREATOR'S GRACE... WHAT IS THIS PLACE?!

THESE FIRES ARE THE MAGICAL HEART OF ETERNIA FROM WHICH ALL THINGS WERE WROUGHT...
...THE SWORD, THE PLANET, THE UNIVERSE...
...THIS, PRINCE ADAM OF ETERNIA...IS THE SECRET OF CASTLE GRAYSKULL.

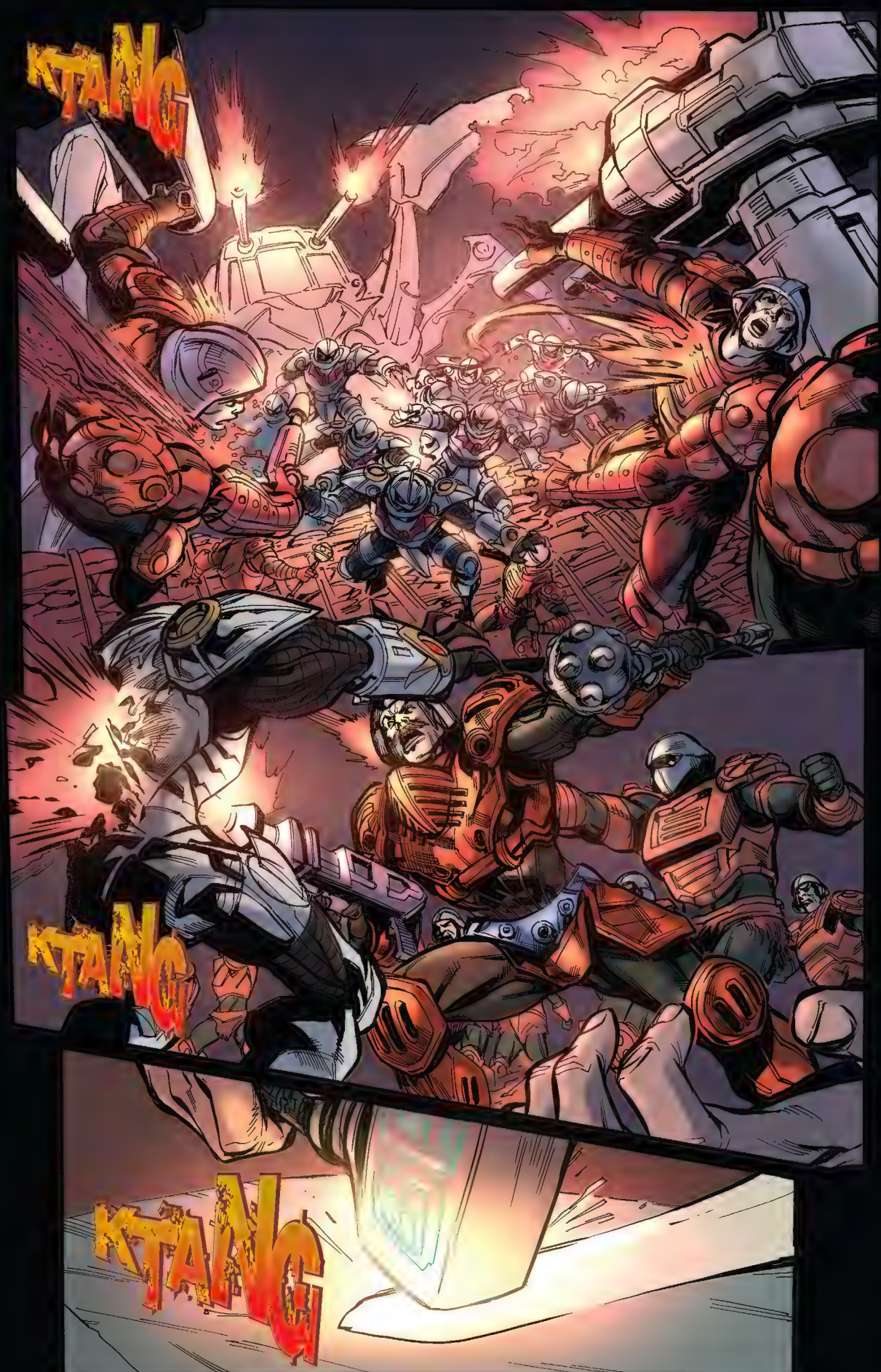
KNOW?! KNOW WHAT?! ZOAR? SORCERESS!
WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?!
SORCERESS! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS! ZOAR!
TEELA WAS RIGHT. MAGES ARE INFURIATING!
NOT EXACTLY THE WORDS SHE USED BUT CLOSE ENOUGH.
WHAT DOES SHE EXPECT ME TO DO? I FAILED SMITHING.
AM I TO PRETEND THERE'S NOT A SIEGE SO I CAN...CAN...
...CAN WHAT?!
DUNCAN SHOULD BE HERE. HE UNDERSTANDS THE INTRICACIES OF--
..."I AM NOT HERE TO ENCOURAGE YOU. I AM HERE TO SEE YOU PREPARED FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD."
THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL...

"...I HAVE THE POWER."
HEH! LOOK'A YOU. LOOK'A YOU ALL "WOE IS ME" 'N' SAD 'N' LIKE.
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M LONG TERM. I GET T' TALK T' FRESH MEAT LIKE Y'SELF. GIVE A TASTE'A WHAT'S T' COME.
THEY GONNA BREAK YOU HARD, PINK MEAT. THINK YER A WARRIOR? YOU AIN'T NOTHIN' LESS YER TOLD T' BE IT.
PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T HURT ME.
WELL, A'RIGHT. GOT US A FAST LEARNER HERE.
IDIOT! I WAS FEEDING YOU *YOUR* LINE!
STUPID...
KHUNG
...COWARDLY...
KHUNG
...BOOT-LICKING...
KHUNG

I SHOULD LET HER STAVE YOUR SKULL IN!
TO THE SLAVE MASTER! FIFTY LASHES FOR CARELESSNESS! DOUBLE THAT WILL FOLLOW IF THE WELTS ARE TOO SHALLOW! BEG HIM TO BE HARSH!
KEEPING ME AS A PET?
I PREFER MY PETS HOUSEBROKEN.
REALLY? I'D HAVE THOUGHT MEDIUM RARE.


ADORA--
DON'T CALL ME THAT!
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO CALL YOU? THAT'S THE NAME YOU--
YOU WILL SOON COME TO CALL ME "MASTER."
NOT "MISTRESS"? IS THERE SOMETHING I SHOULD KNOW?
YOU LACK RESPECT.
RESPECT IS EARNED.
RESPECT IS DEMANDED!
REALLY? ON WHAT GROUNDS?
I AM THE SCION! MY FATHER IS LORD HORDAK OF THE BLEAK DOMINION, MASTER OF--
HORDAK? HORDAK?! HORDAK ISN'T HUMAN! HE'S SOME KIND OF...OF VAMPIRE THING OR... LIKE THAT.
LORD HORDAK HAS TRANSCENDED HUMANITY--
WHAT HUMANITY?! IF EVEN HALF OF THE TALES ARE TRUE, THEN HORDAK IS THOUSANDS...MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD!
HE WAS NEVER HUMAN BECAUSE HE WAS AROUND LONG BEFORE HUMANITY EXISTED!
THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN ME?! I AM HIS DAUGHTER AND I AM HUMAN!
THAT'S NOT FOR ME TO EXPLAIN. I STILL BELIEVE TWO PLUS TWO EQUALS FOUR. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?

I BELIEVE YOU HAVE OUTLIVED WHATEVER VALUE YOU MAY ONCE HAVE HAD.
BLEED OUT. YOU ARE NOT WORTH A WARRIOR'S DEATH.
SEE TO IT THAT SHE IS DAYS IN HER DYING.
IT WILL BE SO.


KTANG
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A HALF-HEARTED ATTEMPT ON THEIR PART, MY LIEGE. MEANT TO HARASS MORE THAN DEFEAT.
THAT'S WHAT I FEARED. AND WHEN THEY COME AT FULL FORCE?
WE MAKE THEM PAY DEARLY FOR EVERY INCH.
MY SON... WHERE...?
"I WAS WONDERING THAT MYSELF."
TSSSHHH

AHHH... EXQUISITE. A WEAPON WORTHY OF THE FOE.
AHHH... EXQUISITE. A WEAPON WORTHY OF THE FOE.
IT HAD TO BE THROUGH YOU, YOUTH. YOURS HAD TO BE THE HAND BY WHICH THE SWORD WAS WROUGHT. YOU HAD TO CLAIM THE POWER AS YOURS BY RIGHT.
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MINE WAS THE GUIDING HAND BUT YOURS WAS THE DESIRE. THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL AND MORE IS YOURS...SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO INVOKE IT...
MINE WAS THE GUIDING HAND BUT YOURS WAS THE DESIRE. THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL AND MORE IS YOURS...SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO INVOKE IT...
...SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PAY THE PRICE.
CHOOSE, YOUTH.
...SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO PAY THE PRICE.
CHOOSE, YOUTH.
BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL...

I...
HAVE THE POWER!

"WHAT HUMANITY?! HORDAK IS THOUSANDS... MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD!
"...HE WAS AROUND LONG BEFORE HUMANITY EXISTED!
"I STILL BELIEVE TWO PLUS TWO EQUALS FOUR. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE?"
WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE, CHILD?
?!
IF HE TRULY WISHED TO KEEP YOU AS HIS, HORDAK SHOULD NEVER HAVE LET YOU COME HOME...

next issue: DADDY ISSUES!